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ORIGINAL, COMMERCIAL.

SOCIETY OF THE MUTILATED.

The Mysteries of Russian Fanaticism.

Extraordinary Revelations.

From the Fall Mall Gazette.

For long years there have been stories from Russia, through the medium of the current newspapers, to the effect that a new and mysterious and most unhappy sect was springing into existence, and that its tenets, based on the most extraordinary views of religion, had apparently been discovered by the police at Jaroslaw. The story is true in part, for the authorities have really made a coup upon the hospital of that town, have arrested a number of the sect, and have imprisoned several of their leading members. But the sect is not a new one, and the views of the confessed fanatics seem to have been scarcely comprehended by the examining magistrate, so that the prisoners will be tried in open court, and that they will be defended by the boldest, the most eloquent, and the most outspoken members of the Russian bar, the young men of promise. When the defense is reported we shall be able to form an opinion of how far the Russian people are being tried, if we be ourselves in ignorance.

In such a position it has been asked and written about these Scopzi that it may be well if we attempt to give some idea of what they really are, and what they think. To begin with their name—Scopzi—an average is to be struck between the various definitions of it, and as experience has taught me that no one who has made such statements with them can fail to recognize them in future, inasmuch as the peculiarity of the mutilating of themselves, or of others, is the one thing which they most desire to keep secret, it may be taken as accurate enough. They are a sect of fanatics, those self-dreaded creatures who congregate them and can account for to no other. Their organization is on the basis of masonry, or rather of the Carbonari, for in the first half it professes the freemasonry of the entire universe; in the last half it professes the freemasonry of Russia, or rather of the Russian empire. Its members are called brothers and sisters, and the head of the sect is a woman, Anna Romanova, a peasant of the Tambov district, who proclaims herself the prophetess of the Holy Ghost. Her husband, Ivan Romanov, is one of the most active members of the sect, and among the Khlysty ranks as the prophet or the Christ. Their principles are those of the Khlysty, and their practices are those of the Skoptzi. Their name is derived from the Russian word *skopets*, a gelding or castrated animal, and they are so called because they practice castration on themselves and on others. Their principles are based on the Khlysty, and their practices on the Skoptzi, but they have added to them a number of new ideas, which are altogether their own. Their principles are those of the Khlysty, and their practices are those of the Skoptzi, but they have added to them a number of new ideas, which are altogether their own.

The Khlysty, or Flagellants, are a sect which has existed in Russia for many years, and which has been the subject of much persecution. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God.

The Skoptzi, or Castrated Ones, are a sect which has existed in Russia for many years, and which has been the subject of much persecution. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God. They are a sect of fanatics, who believe that the Holy Ghost has descended upon them, and that they are the chosen people of God.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VI.—NO. 28. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 15, 1869.

THE OIL REGIONS.

Production and Development During April—Rise in Pennsylvania Region—New Wells.

From Titusville Herald, May 7.

The production increased steadily during the period under review, and the daily average, as shown by the increase in stock and the shipments from the district, was 3,000 barrels of forty-three gallons—an enlargement of 1,278 barrels over the daily average of March. This increase was caused more by the continuous working of the wells and the use of torpedoes, than by the finding of new wells.

The daily product during April, last year, was about 4,70 barrels, and the average per day from January 1st to May 1st was about 4,100 barrels. When the advance in price, and the largely increased developments which have existed since, are taken into consideration, the increase in the product this year is seen to be comparatively small.

The following table shows the production during April, the average per day, and the production previously reported in 1868, and the average per day since January 1st. The product of the Shamburg field is not kept track of, and the average per day for the same time.

Total production of Pithole,		
Total production of Petroleum Centre,		
Total production of Oil Creek,		
Total production of Miller Farm,		
Total production of Tarr Farm,		
Total production of Pleasantville,		
Total production of Titusville,		
Total production of Oil City,		
Total production of Plumer,		
Total production of Parker's Landing,		
Total production of Foxburg,		
Total production of Parker City,		
Total production of Bear Creek,		
Total production of Red Hot,		
Total production of Scrubgrass,		
Total production of Petrolia,		
Total production of Karns City,		
Total production of Millerstown,		
Total production of Glade Run,		
Total production of Allegheny River,		
Total production of Clarion River,		
Total production of Tionesta,		
Total production of Pithole,		
Total production of Miscellaneous,		
Total production of Shamburg,		
Total production of Bradford,		
Total production of Tuna,		
Total production of Bennett's Branch,		
Total production of Sinnemahoning,		
Total production of Driftwood,		
Total production of Emporium,		
Total production of Kane,		
Total production of Warren,		
Total production of Corry,		
Total production of Erie,		
Total production of Meadville,		
Total production of Franklin,		
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Total production of Meadville,		
Total production of Franklin,		

The production of the farms and districts is as follows, the figures being for the month of April, and the increase or decrease in any case is the difference between the production of that month and March. The Pithole district is the only one which shows a decrease, and this is due to the exhaustion of the Pithole City wells, and the partial exhaustion of the Pithole Creek wells. The Pithole City wells are nearly exhausted, and the Pithole Creek wells are falling off rapidly. The Pithole City wells are nearly exhausted, and the Pithole Creek wells are falling off rapidly.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1869.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION OF SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

There appears to be considerable awakening in this community as to the absolute necessity of suppressing special legislation. We will be generally and correctly appreciated, not the remedy of prohibiting it by constitutional amendment finds favor with all who have reflected on the subject. Still there are difficulties in the way, and it will require wise and prudent action to give legal effect to public sentiment. Under our Constitution, any one amendment can be submitted to the people of the State once in five years, but prior to submission it must have the approval of two successive Legislatures. This makes the Legislature very cautious in adopting amendments, and only a crowded public necessity will carry one through. We claim that such a necessity exists in this matter of special legislation, that an evil of so gross a nature and one so imperatively demanding reform affects or threatens us. A brief, simple amendment covering the ground may be passed next winter, and submitted to the people in 1871. It will be adopted by an overwhelming majority, if the voters of the State ever get an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the matter, but the trouble will be to get it through the Legislature at the two successive sessions required. The Harrisburg "lobsters" and the lobby, together with the members who have axes to grind, or nothing or expect to make money out of this very class of special legislation and jobbery, proposed to be lopped off, will oppose such an amendment on the ground that it interferes with their pursuit of bread and butter. There will be no lobby or outside influence to push the amendment, for, singular as it may seem, measures deemed requisite and important by the whole people are often the weakest at the outset. It is the old story of what is everybody's business. It is the apprehension or the indifference that has led us to recommend the nomination of legislative candidates distinctly pledged to the reform, and then let their political backbones be reinforced by emphatic and not to be misunderstood expressions from the nominating conventions. The people are ripe for the movement against legislative jobbery at this time, and, although we expect it to be carried through by the Ring or some party, it is not a political question in any sense, and we will gladly welcome all the aid that comes from the Democratic organization. It is their interest as well as ours. We believe if the subject is pressed as its merits demand, a large majority of the members to be elected to the Legislature this fall, by both parties, will pledge themselves to favor the desired amendment suppressing special legislation.

Many of our wisest public men, of both parties, deem that a convention should be called to consider amendments to the State Constitution, and it has been urged upon us that the best way to protect the people will be by a general revision of the organic law of the State. The difficulty in the way is that the calling of a Convention, while it is favored by many of the politicians, is opposed by others, and the question would give rise to heated and acrimonious discussions, and eventually merge itself into a party issue. We should prefer to avoid all and secure every experience of unanimity in favor of the proposed amendment. In this view, the submission of an amendment prohibiting all special legislation seems to us the speediest and most direct way of getting out the evil.

We again urge, therefore, upon the nominating Conventions of the Republican party, in the various counties of the State, that they shall require of all legislative candidates nominated, distinct pledges to support an amendment to the Constitution of the nature indicated. To appeal to the selfish motives of the politicians, we would state that the party that identifies itself with this question of legislative reform, will be the gainer by such action, by a good many thousand votes.

Between a course to cause issues between the Protestant and New York cannot fail to exercise an important influence on the commerce of the world, but any attempt at present to show its extent must be purely imaginative. Communication with China, India and Japan, will be measured by days instead of weeks; facilities for the interchange of products will be increased, and immigration will receive the aid of an important auxiliary. The gold and silver product of the Pacific States in 1868 is estimated at seventy-five millionsof dollars, but there are other interests springing up that will soon far exceed in value the mineral wealth of those States. The crop of cereals of California and Oregon is already a great element of wealth that the actual gold product. Breadstuffs now form the chief item of export of those two young States, which, a few years since imported them. No less than one hundred and sixty-three cargo vessels have been freighted from the ports of San Francisco during the year 1868, with wheat and flour, principally for European consumption, valued at $10,000,000. The wheat crop of California alone, in 1865, was 9,000,000 bushels; 12,000,000 bushels in 1866, and in 1867 the crop was estimated at 17,000,000 bushels; and in 1868 at 16,000,000 bushels. The wool crop of 1868 was 1,250,000 pounds, and that of 1869 8,000,000 pounds. California leather and hides have a high rank in Eastern markets. The wine and fruit culture, although still in infancy, promises to be a large source of revenue. Besides gold and silver, the Pacific coast has extensive mines of other minerals—quicksilver, coal, iron, borax and cobalt. In fact it is impossible to enumerate any but the most important elements of commercial wealth and progress that will be quickened into life by the Pacific Railroad. Its influence will be felt throughout the continent, and will assert itself in the great cities of Europe.

A very contemporary intimates that the Commercial has private animosity to gratify in opposing the Winans for the Senate; and the opinion is hardly put forth that he will receive the nomination in spite of all that can be done to prevent it. We disclaim any such feeling towards Mr. Winans, and the matter cannot be placed on such narrow ground. When he, with ample, undisputed business pledges of economy and reform, outraged public sentiment, and the regarded private and public appeals to beware of a course that would certainly connect them with whole-sale corruption and immorality that had already made flattering a by-word in the land, and when, after their last winter's course at Harrisburg, and they came back to the people for indorsement and promotion, they earned no issue from which there is no escape. If, as is intimated, Mr. Winans is likely to receive the indorsement and promotion he seeks, then is there all the greater necessity for stating plainly the reasons why he is wholly unworthy of the vote of confidence which he, with a presumption little less than amazing, asks from the people. In our judgment the time has fully come when the community owes it to itself to turn a final on all such appeals. When the people have the power to place unfit men over them, with their insolence, and when a solid movement about to made for the storm which every man who exhibits for a moment realizes as the great necessity of the times. Conventions engineered by corrupt and lobbying leaders, may be made to give the indorsement counted, and may nominate those against whom public opinion is so pointedly directed, or men so better than they, but the people cannot be made to support them. The time for compromising rebellion against this sort of thing has come. The people are ready for it. If the leaders don't believe it, let them try it.

The Republican press of Pennsylvania is waking up to the importance of securing one of the old Legislature and nominating new and better men. In this matter the press has an important duty to perform in calling the masses out and giving public opinion an opportunity to assert itself. Where it had but no voice, which was most frequently the case, it was caused by the unscrupulous corruptionists and corruptionists and lobbyists of Harrisburg. It did its whole duty then in condemning public sentiment in the clamoring and denouncing every stage of the legislative proceedings. It is no less its duty now to keep up the work of reforming the Legislature, and this can be accomplished in no way but by having true men. There is all the greater need of commencing the work early, because leaders who make merchandise of the party and the principles are now formulating nominations for packing conventions. Some of the most objectionable men are now making arrangements to work with success, if they succeed. As a measure of practical reform, Republican newspapers should take up the proposition of Senator Buckalew, to use the idle funds in the Treasury to retire the public debt, which the interest will be stopped and taxation reduced. This money in the hands of individuals is now used as a huge contingent fund and for personal speculation. The people should have the benefit of it, and in order to secure this it should be made a direct question before the people.

The Democracy of Pennsylvania are likely to have an interesting contest over their Gubernatorial nomination. So far it seems to be a fight between money bags and railroad influence at the eastern and western ends of the State, General Cass supporting the latter and Asa Packer the former geographical subdivision of the party. Western men would like the nomination, but is justly think so to his strength with the people. General Wm. Cameron and Mr. Cameron are also named, but their strength must be counted from the Pittsburg and Cass people, after the convention meets, and the fight grows lively between the principals. Cass and Packer are pressed for their financial strength, and by railroad influences. Western men on the score of home party services and unquestionable fitness, and Mr. Cameron and Mr. Cameron on their military records. In the same place as other leading States, and will carry the day. Conventions engineered by corrupt and lobbying leaders, may be made to give the indorsement counted, and may nominate those against whom public opinion is so pointedly directed, or men so better than they, but the people cannot be made to support them. The time for compromising rebellion against this sort of thing has come. The people are ready for it. If the leaders don't believe it, let them try it.

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The Free Traders are moving all their forces. It ought to be a weighty fact with every one who feels that our countrymen should have the first chance in their own market, that every importer, every agent of a foreign manufacturing establishment, and every dealer who makes his money by the connection with foreign trade, is a free trader and supports with money the Free Trade League, and other organizations and instrumentalities for introducing free trade doctrines and practices in our Government. If these leagues and instrumentalities were for substituting a monopoly for a republican form of government, it can hardly be doubted where every true hearted American would be found, and when we see that, in a large sense, the trade conflict involves the same principle, it is indeed a matter of surprise that the foreign importers and agents are not found alone, supported by not a single American who sincerely wishes to see his country prosper. England is far too trade at home just so far as we will enable her to have the first chance in her own market, but she is not willing to concede as much to us. With her cheap labor and capital she is trying to force us out of our own markets, and this will be done unless our laborers, who cannot work as cheaply and live as poorly as they do in England, have the shield of protection thrown around them. A New York paper calls for a list of those who have subscribed money in that city to break down protection. Such a list, once published, would have little to be said to invite that confidence.

A New York paper says that May 19, the day on which the Pacific Railroad was completed, should be celebrated in coming time. To this we give our assent, not wholly because of the event that would be commemorated, but because, in addition, as a people, we need more holidays. We have not enough admission for the drudgery and toil to which we are a nation of slaves. We would be glad to see a day for the decoration of the graves of the heroes who fell in the defence of the Republic more distinctly set apart, recognized and observed by all the people, both for the holy sentiment commemorated, and the good it will do by furnishing another holiday. Other countries do these things better by having holiday seasons of days together, and in this respect we might profitably borrow something of the Germans, here and in Fatherland. Their singing, shooting and other Festivals are one gateway to us in more ways than one, and we second every proposition that will serve to let off the steam under the high pressure of which, as a people, we are drawing headlong, in pursuits that exhaust the body and cause the brain.

It looks as if Massachusetts will be the first State to experiment in the matter of female suffrage. The Committee of the Senate of that State, appointed to examine into the claims of females to vote, has reported an amendment to the Constitution, which read as follows: "The word male, in the fifty-second section of the third article of the amendment to the Constitution, thereafter the women of this Commonwealth shall have the right of voting at elections, and shall be eligible to office on the same terms as men, which right may be exercised by them under such regulations and disabilities as made common of this Commonwealth now are, and no others." The report is signed by nine out of ten members of the committee. The Boston Journal says that the friends of the measure, but still female suffrage in Massachusetts may not be quite so near as it appears to be. This amendment must be agitated before the people, and receive the approval of two successive Legislatures, and then submitted to the men of the State.

Wonders, the spirit photographer, of New York, has come and gone, and has left behind him a record and a few advertised men of his time. The charge was that his pictures were not spirit pictures, something rather difficult to prove, but were pictures of persons who had visited his rooms. Each one paid $10 for his sitting, and was taken without any aid from the spirits, but of course they could not prove that Mumler was not in league with the spirits, as he always said. "Gentlemen, I do not deny that pictures looking like mine can be taken by scientific means, but I maintain that my pictures are not made in this way. Before you can condemn me, you must prove that I employ science." And as they failed to do this, the magistrate was constrained to discharge Mumler and allow him to return to his ghosts and his dollars. Mumler is now in Boston, and has a mission in Fatherland. Their singing, shooting and other Festivals are one gateway to us in more ways than one, and we second every proposition that will serve to let off the steam under the high pressure of which, as a people, we are drawing headlong, in pursuits that exhaust the body and cause the brain.

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Weekly Commercial.

THE GOLDEN WORK.

MARRIAGE IN RUSSIA.

The Peculiarities of the Present and Remote: The Various Formalities Attending a Russian Ceremony and a Subsequent Merchant-Tax Collector.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

The Political System of China.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

Pittsburgh Live Stock Market.

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, EAST LIBERTY, SATURDAY EVENING, May 8, 1869.

CATTLE—The market opened on Monday a little dull, but on Wednesday the buyers were out in full force and prices were a shade higher with brisk sales. On Friday afternoon the advance was all lost, as New York went back about 50 cents per hundred, and prices to-day were much the same as on last Monday. We quote best to choice cattle at $7 @$8 00; decent to good $6 75@7 25, and stock steers $4@5 00 for common to good cows. There have been more cattle here and sold this week than for a long time in one week. Holmes, Lafferty & Glass sold alone 613 head.

HOGS—On Monday receiving last the market opened with but few good hogs in the pens, and prices were strong, fully 50c @ 100 stronger than on Saturday. On Wednesday the receipts were heavy, and the market declined for the best lots 25c, but closed to-day firm at the decline. We quote the best hogs to-day at $6 50@7 00, and York hogs from $6 00 @6 25 for medium to good. Corn is now in the ear at 75 for mixed

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1869.

TERMS—

$2 00

THE LAST RAIL.

Monday witnessed the completion of the greatest enterprise ever yet undertaken, the laying of the last rail that unites the iron highway traversing a continent and connecting the two great oceans of the globe. It is the noblest achievement the history of the world records, whether considered in relation to its extent, its cost, or the beneficent results that will flow from it. The last rail will be put down with appropriate ceremonies—it is to be laid on a tie of California laurel capped with solid silver, and will be held in its place by a spike of gold, gold, significant contributions of the mineral wealth of our Pacific States and Territories.

Two companies have had this work in hand—the Union Pacific, the eastern, and the Central Pacific of California, the western portion of it. The distance from Omaha, on the Missouri, to Sacramento, on the navigable waters of San Francisco, is 1,775 miles. It crosses two immense mountain barriers—the Rocky and the Sierra Nevada ranges. The greatest elevation above the sea on the former is at Sherman, on the Union Pacific line, where the road reaches an altitude of 8,242 feet, and on the latter at a point where the Nevadas rise to a height of 7,042 feet.

On the first day of January, 1868, about forty miles of the Omaha end of the road were completed, and at the same time there were sixty miles finished east of Sacramento. This made about one hundred miles done at the commencement of that year—and since then, in a space of *three years, four months and eight days*, no years are to be counted, over seven hundred and seventy-one miles more have been added, which fact, when it is considered that the mountains, intervening between the two companies, were impassable for the greater part of the year, and that the material and labor had to be transported over the line as it progressed.

But let us trace the progress of the road, from the starting point of January, 1863. In the early stages of the construction from the Omaha end there was no railway connecting that frontier settlement with those places in the eastward from which nearly all the supplies of material had to be brought. Every stick of timber, every rail and spike and tool, had to be wagoned for one hundred and seventy-five miles over the common roads of Iowa. It cost more to transport some of the iron materials than their original price at the foundry or rolling mill before the war. Then the Missouri, a wide, rapid river, presented a two months obstacle in the way. The workmen themselves had to be sent from the eastern cities. Over these difficulties and others nearly as great, the work still went on at the Omaha end, and by the close of 1866, three hundred and five miles were completed. At the close of 1867, there were five hundred and forty miles of completed road, and at the end of 1868 about nine hundred miles, with grading so far done in advance that the Union (or Omaha) Company claimed about a month ago to have about ten hundred and fifty miles so far completed as to give them the right to that much of the line.

Meanwhile the work progressed with great vigor at the California end, although from the more difficult nature of the country, the mileage completed by the Central Pacific Company did not keep pace with the work done on the eastern line. At the close of 1868, the Central Pacific Company had the iron down on about four hundred miles of road, and the grading done to a point eleven of the remaining portion of the eastern end. A part of this, as much was over the formidable Sierra Nevada, an almost solid barrier uprising the Pacific, which rises 7,042 feet above the level of the ocean in the short distance of one hundred miles from tide water. This great ascent to the region of almost perpetual snow, required the highest engineering skill, and consumed a great deal of time and money. Over a portion of the section of the road, it had to be protected from the avalanche of snow by "snow sheds," which, in their length, make the most extensive wooden structures in the world. After the mountains were crossed, and a descent made into the plains, the progress of the western company was almost as wonderful as that of the eastern one or rival, whichever it may be called. The two companies unite to-day at Promontory Point, at the head of Salt Lake, in the very heart of Brigham Young's domains.

The Government, as greatly agreed to and its credit as the two companies to the extent of fifty millions of dollars, and up to the 1st of May had issued to the Union Pacific road, $23,230,000, and to the Central Pacific, $19,951,000, in six per cent. bonds, making a total to the two companies of $43,229,000. We are not disposed to rate the general lavishing over the completion of the road by our reference at this time to the alleged misappropriation of funds, or the imperfect construction of some parts of the two lines. We trust this will be with not for the most exhaustive investigation hereafter, and we have the promise of the Administration that it shall be so.

American enterprise, so much talked of, is illustrated by this grand achievement, as that it can be understood in all parts of the globe as no idle boasting. Six days more ocean to ocean in the time that it will take to cross the continent—not more than a week occupied some of our older citizens to make their business trips to Philadelphia and Baltimore. But the terror the continent traverse will have accomplished thirty-five hundred miles, surmounted three great ranges of mountains, crossed mighty rivers, and traversed vast plains of uninhabited territory, but lately in the undisputed possession of hostile savages.

DO WARREN.

The "Word of Warning" by "a Republican from the Start," in our columns to-day, is, we believe, a faithful reflection of public sentiment concerning nominations, and should be heeded by those who are busy pulling the wires. There is no power on earth that can make the people give their approbation to the doings at Harrisburg not exact. No man who properly esteems integrity and faithfulness, whether in a public officer or a private individual, will think of a single moment of supporting a candidate contaminated by participancy in the proceedings which have made the Legislature of late odious to every right thinking man. And yet, strange as it may seem, it is deliberately proposed to inflict these participants by nominating them for re-election, as though public and private virtue no longer existed, and the people were but tools for the engineers of Conventions to handle as will. It may seem strange to some that this should be attempted, but the reason is found in the fact, that offences are on foot, to be brought forward at the next session, that would be instantly scouted by a Legislature acting in the interest of the people. It becomes entirely necessary, therefore, to pack the Legislature. It is always a process which is going on at every session. There is more need than ever now for selecting not only new representatives, but those who will not be brought under the influence that has so long prevailed at Harrisburg. The reasons are so broad and deep as any that ever existed in the world. The necessity is immediate, permanent and overshadowing. Our Legislature has become a mere machine, run by corrupt men, regardless of morality, public or private, and in total disregard of the general welfare. It is high time for the people to strike. With a Legislature acting as their servant hundreds of thousands of dollars might be turned from the pockets of individuals into the public treasury, and hundreds of thousands more might be saved, and legislation corresponding to the requirements of a free people secured. Another session of such men must be chosen. If there is the engineering of caucuses who have become sensitive to the present pass, conventions disregard public sentiment and are made to nominate the old set, or men no better than they, then their proceedings should be set aside by the independent action of the people. All over the State such a determination should be cultivated and adhered to. It is not too soon to begin. For our part, we believe that it is not only the duty of the Republican party to respond to the people's will, but that, if left to itself, it will do so. The evil lies in the fact that the corrupt men, who have thrust themselves into the leadership, first pack the conventions and then whip the minors of the party into supporting nominations totally unfit to be made. This has been the case heretofore. But will they be able to do it hereafter? This is the question our correspondence, who has summoned and whatever in the Republican ranks, plainly puts. And we ask Republicans to ponder the question and prepare to take an early stand.

THE SECRET OF LEGISLATIVE CORRUPTION.

Every good citizen is interested in reforming the low making power at Harrisburg. Not only is a reform necessary in the personal composition of the Legislature, but the greatest need is a reform in our system of legislation. In brief, the Constitution of Pennsylvania should be amended so as to prohibit special legislation. It is the system of private, special, and corrupt special laws that has tainted the political atmosphere of the State capital, and transformed our representative bodies from assemblies convened to frame measures for the general welfare to auction rooms, where all sorts of special grants of power are made to the highest bidder.

Corruption is inseparable from this system of special legislation. The much talked of but never realized ewe speak in a general sense) selection of honest and able representatives will not cure this monster evil, for the system would demoralize a legislature of political saints. Neither will battery laws meet the case. A man who takes a bribe will perjure himself to avert the consequences of his casuality, and the man who will give a bribe is not likely to make himself publicly infamous by confessing it. Then, besides all that, it is only in the case of special laws that bribery is resorted to. General laws passed to meet the wants of the whole people are not passed by corrupt means. If political in their character, they reflect the well understood views of a majority of the people, organized in a political party. If non-political, they are in most cases general want, and combining as they do, no special privileges on any one are passed upon their merits.

The general unanimosity passed last winter at Harrisburg number seventy-one, and occupy but ninety pages of the pamphlet edition of the laws. These ninety pages comprise all the legislation requisite for the people of the State, in the estimation of the law makers. As many of the general laws were of such controlled importance and advantage to the people that no opposition was made to them, it is evident that if the work of the members had been confined to their constitution, the session would have been of short duration instead of stretching into four months, it need not have been longer than forty days.

But, unfortunately, here comes in the common bane of legislation. Against the closing up of the session, corrupt the members and disgrace the good name of the State. Of course we mean the passage of special or private laws, for the benefit of particular individuals, corporations and communities. The volume of session laws for the year 2008 title 1,000 pages of printed matter, and *comprises fourteen hundred and forty-one laws*, but of this amount only *seventy-four are general laws*. The session of last winter, we are assured, was more industrious in framing special laws than its predecessor of 1867, but we have no means of knowing the exact number or the space they will occupy in the volume of session laws. The general laws of last winter number seventy-one and occupy a pamphlet of ninety-six pages. The special laws will range between one and occupy a possibly sixteen hundred pages.

How then is the evil the people must endure if they are to succeed in legislative reform. Nineteen one per cent. of the decreasing classes. Is the attempt to appeal laws could be accused from its enacts under a new system of general laws, with greater facility and at less expense than it takes to carry them through the Legislature. Possibly by Constitutional amendment, that cannot be evaded, all special legislation, and we will see an instant check put upon corruption, by rolling up the work of the lobby. A reform will take place in the character of the members. The emigration to the lower sort of politicians or seek legislative positions in the hope of profit, will be removed, and good men will come forward as aspirants for election, because the position will become one of pleasure and not honorable duty.

In the Republican party of Pennsylvania the high honor of instituting and carrying out this reform, by a constitutional amendment, legislation only and properly belongs to it. Let the people speak out in the State and County Conventions in an emphatic and decided tone. Let the people everywhere take up the subject, discuss it, press it upon candidates, and the amendment will be carried through the Legislature and before the people by an almost unanimous vote. This one move is more important than all others. It involves guilt, impunity and the honor and good name of representative government. There is but one side to the argument. *The abolition of special or class legislation.* Let that be the earnest work of every Republican journal, political convention and enlightened politician in the State. It will put the party on the vantage ground in Pennsylvania for years to come, for it will identify it with the speedy and practical reform of the most glaring abuses with which our government is entangled. It is not only the highest expedience in the Republican party to take the lead in this matter, but it will be an act worthy of enlightened patriotism.

Doves were ancient monitors. *A Constitutional amendment prohibiting it.* What County Convention will take the lead in nominating and instructing the candidates on this issue?

WHAT AWAITS?

The outrageous disregard of law and the imperative demands for economy of a too oppressed people, by the last House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, we trust, has not passed from the public mind. The indignation which only a few weeks ago found expression everywhere against those Representatives who, with a zeal and promptness which, in the interest of the Treasury, would have served them in perils of thousands, forged and cast steel through a scheme whereby twenty-seven deadheads were pensioned for entire winter on the State, has, we hope, not spent itself. These representatives aimed to a man, are asking for a re-election or promotion to the Senate. If the people were in earnest in their indignation, if they are ever to rebuke wrong-doers and leave equal chaste, dishonest and negligently housed, shiftly-shaky, weak-kneed men at home, now is the time to do it. Their impudence in asking for a re-election and promotion is more than sublime. It illustrates to what the atmosphere of Harrisburg will bring some men, and it proves that if the rebuke is not administered now, there is nothing of legislative recklessness and corruption that will not be perpetrated.

Let not a rebuke come of the leading factions in the closing hours of the Legislature of 1868, the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, perhaps stimulated by a growing alarm in view of the enormous expenses of that session, reported a law fixing the number of the officers of the House at thirty-four. This was agreed to by the Senate, and it was a pledge to the people which served to allay a growing distrust. But how was it kept? On the first day of the session which met in January last, a considerable number of the old members being returned, it was proposed and carried to increase the number of the House officers to sixty-one. A more flagrant breach of faith, a more deliberate violation of duty, or a more aggravated disregard of the popular demand for economy there never was. The perpetrators of the act were warned and repeatedly reminded with, but they persisted. It was said that the amount of work required this increase. But that was false. Even the lowest number had little to do. The real reason was that the thirty-four officers could not be equally divided between the sixty-one members comprising the majority. Therefore to give an office and a salary to each member of the majority and make the number equal, the number of officers was increased. This was the old season. Session has continued to drag it. Session will. And the more shameful fact, is that the member who for year before, as Chairman of the Retrenchment and Reform Committee, reported in favor of reducing the offices to thirty-four, was among the foremost in championing the increase and defending the act. But the Senate refused to concur, and the raid on the Treasury was in danger of failing. But the raiders were not to be foiled. Under the leadership of their champion—we mean Mr. GEORGE WILSON, of Allegheny—the House determined to go it alone, and in defiance of the law, the Senate and public sentiment, the twenty-seven deadheads were installed in the Capitol. From that hour it was clear that it would take something more than human to save the Treasury from spoliation. The public indignation became intense. Repeated efforts were made to dismiss the dead-heads. Mr. PENNEY was driven from on the floor time to speak in their favor. In this he had the support of his colleagues—a fact that makes it not a whit the better for him, but all the worse for them. But the indignation grew, till finally at about the middle of the session a resolution was introduced declaring that the dead-heads were unnecessary, and that they be dismissed. The Senate refused to recognize their appointment in any way, and therefore they could not be paid. It was the money they were appointed for, and the money they would have. The House kept the dead-heads in its employ, although it had by a direct vote declared that they were not needed, and the effects of their champion and his backers were turned to be something some way to get out of the Treasury some twenty thousand dollars which nobody had earned. We need not go into particulars. The Appropriation Bill was kicked and cuffed between the two Houses for several days, till Mr. WILSON and his brigade of dead heads had the satisfaction of seeing the Senate back down and the money paid. Thereupon the Legislature adjourned and Mr. WILSON has shown the people of Allegheny for the Senatorial nomination, one of the specialty of those whom he so successfully championed, and every member who backed him is also understood to be up for a nomination. What answer?

BEFORE SOUTHERN.

The Boston idea of political Reform Societies or Leagues is extending to the West, with the iron trade theory prominent in the list of principles proposed to be advanced by them. That is made in these movements is comforting them up with issues about which people are divided, and which in no sense enter into the question of protecting the Government from corrupt influences. For instance, legislative reform, a speedy return to specie payments, and a change in the civil service by the abolition of political tests for subordinate offices, are questions upon which there is a very slight difference of opinion among thinking men of all parties; but, when the issue of free trade or protection to American industry is introduced, we have at once—in the West and some parts of the East—an element of discord, that will go far towards frustrating the accomplishment of a single one of the objects to which the Reform Leagues are pledged. It is in this way that a grand popular movement, springing from an appreciation of manifest evils, will be frittered away in the discussion of political economy, on which public sentiment is pretty evenly divided, and which, in no sense, bear upon the question of honest administration. In Cincinnati, a call for a public meeting is in circulation among leading Republicans, which proposes to effect a local organization upon the following basis

"We, the undersigned, members of the Republican party, proud of the great services it has rendered the country in the past, and of the great principles of equal civil and political rights for which it has ever contended, and confident in which the questions of slavery and suffrage have been, or are about to be, settled, almost beyond the possibility of agitation, the questions of finance and administration, and all other questions which are to become of future importance, will be left to the wisdom of the future, do associate ourselves together for the purpose of maintaining a sound and honest currency, of securing a system of taxation which shall bear equally upon all classes, of administering a economical tariff for the purpose of revenue, of securing a reform in the civil service, and the abolition of political tests for subordinate offices, and

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Now, all such movements as this will of fact very little good for the reason that the introduction of the tariff issue will create dissensions, and thereby weaken the force with which the other and entirely unobjectionable questions of public policy are advanced. In fact, the idea is so absurd as it would be to start a reform league pledged to the enginegrat of legislative corruption and particular theories of taxation, the doctrine of election, free will, or the infallibility of the Pope. People would unite to carry out one object, and then drift as sailors, but discussions would prevent the accomplishment of any practical good.

NAPOLEON'S IDEA OF A FREE PRESS.

Napoleon's theory of a free press is a remarkable one. A year ago he promulgated through his legislature, a law which was opposed to some the profession of journalism from the disgraceful condition in which a few languished since the days of Louis Philippe, and he gave to public journals the privilege of discussing political questions without the express permission of the government, but how much the concession was worth, the history of the past year clearly demonstrates. A few weeks ago a well known Paris journalist, M. Cassagnac, was fined three hundred francs for a disgraceful remark about the Emperor, and the severity of the press prosecutions under the new system has increased rather than diminished. During the year since the press law went into operation, nearly one hundred suits have been instituted against journalists, and almost every one has been followed by conviction. In most instances, the officers have been both fined and imprisoned. Seven newspapers have been altogether suppressed. Three have been temporarily interdicted. One of the Parisian editors has been, moreover, divested of his civil and political rights—lost the privilege of voting, of holding office, of publishing anything over his signature—placed, in fine, on a level with convicted felons. Nor are fines and imprisonment, and disfranchisement the only penalties French editors have to dread. The summary suppression of the sale of obnoxious journals in the streets and at railway stations provokes the formality of trial; and if, by any rare luck, the trial end in acquittal, there is no redress for the wrong already done. The government, therefore, can ruin any newspaper, even without cause.

Napoleonism as a popular worship is fast dying out in France. The resonance for the founder of the dynasty has been diminished by the small tyrannies of his successor. Some day a spark will kindle the combustible material now repressed in the chasm of Paris—barricades will spring up—a revolution will be inaugurated. Then Louis Napoleon will be fortunate if he escapes even with the humiliations that accompanied Louis Philippe as plain Mr. Smith into exile.

OFF FOR THE PACIFIC.

The last rail has been laid, and the iron track now traverses the continent from the Bay of Fundy to the Pacific ocean. From Pittsburgh to San Francisco the time table and distances are calculated as follows:

	Miles.	Hours.
Pittsburgh, or Chicago, via	351	8
Chicago or Pittsburgh, via	468	12½
Omaha to Ogden	1,032	33
Ogden to Reno, Nevada, via Central Pacific	409	24
Reno to Sacramento, Cal., via Central Pacific	131	8
Sacramento to San Francisco, via Steamboat	140	6
Total	2,531	91½

At San Francisco the traveler may take the steamship lines on the Pacific, reach Japan in nineteen days and in six more place himself in communication with the Celestials at Hong Kong or Shanghai.

The warm discussion just now in progress between the Chicago and St. Louis journals, as to whether wheat will be increased in value in the hands of producers by sending it down the Mississippi river instead of to Chicago, seems to be definitely settled by a St. Paul paper, which states that "the low rate for which wheat is now carried to New Orleans by railroads and barges has already served to raise the price of wheat in Minnesota five cents per bushel." The St. Louis *Republican* declares that the commencement of the grain movement down the Mississippi "has already acted to the profit of the producers of grain in Minnesota hundreds of thousands of dollars by cheapening the cost of freight." The St. Louis Grain Association has brought No. 2 spring wheat at $1 25, and expect to deliver it in New York at $1 80. Similar grades are now quoted there at $1 60. This

certainly leaves the St. Louis shippers a handsome margin of profit. On Saturday last a ship sailed from New Orleans with 2,800 barrels of St. Louis City Mills flour, for an Irish port. The question seems to be rapidly approaching conclusive settlement.

The cry in both Canada and Nova Scotia for a renewal of the reciprocity treaty is fast becoming a cry for annexation. Reciprocity is not one of the probabilities so long as its absence stimulates the annexation feeling. The expedient of forming one confederation of all the British Provinces is admitted to have proved a failure. The commercial interests of the western section are inimical to those of the eastern. Canada finds a good market in the maritime Provinces, but she affords none to them. A Nova Scotian writing to the *Albion*—the New York organ of the British colonists—after rehearsing these considerations, closes his letter as follows:

"In a word, sir, driven by force of circumstances, and by a working majority, we believe it will best subserve our interests, and we expect to get it. The glory argument is merely an empty sound; the loyalty story is dead; we look for annexation through commercial gladness, substantial glory, and true prosperity, and we believe these great results will be secured to us by annexation to the United States. These are my sentiments, and they are endorsed by many influential men."

This feeling cannot but spread, and when it takes a deep hold on the people annexation will be a question of time only, and short time at that.

The visible-substance bill, which became a law in Ohio on Wednesday last, is well said to be about "the meanest act ever perpetrated by a law making power. It provides that any person, not a white male citizen of the United States, who shall vote, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to five years. It also provides that any person who shall induce a negro to vote shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to five years." In this the Columbus *Sun Journal* concurs:

"The Democratic Legislature says that a negro must go to the penitentiary from one to five years if he votes, and that any person who shall induce or aid a naturalized foreigner for the same offence, is guilty and deserving of being punished in the same manner. It also says that if a person induces a negro to vote he shall be punished for the offence by spending from one to five years in the penitentiary, but if he induces a non-resident white man to vote he shall be punished for the offence by spending from one to six months in the county jail. That absurd provision that a negro resident must know that he is an illegal voter before he can be convicted of illegal voting, and that a white man may be ignorant of the fact that a negro is known to know that he is an illegal voter."

Louisville, through her Board of Trade, is taking action to turn to account for manufacturing purposes, the water power of the falls of the Ohio at that place. No plan has yet been suggested, but the merchants, through the Board of Trade, and the City Councils, by joint committees, are moving in the matter. Cincinnati is becoming a great manufacturing city, in many branches, and yet Louisville possesses natural advantages far ahead of those of Cincinnati, and they only await a proper development to add to the commercial prosperity of the former city. The adaptation of water power in the West, for manufacturing, heretofore confined to the East, has been strangely neglected, but we anticipate, within the next few years, a marked change for the better in this respect. On the upper Mississippi, and on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, the water power is capable of a sufficient water power lying idle and undeveloped to move the machinery of the continent.

Freeman Young's absolute trade, published elsewhere, recalls to mind that his illustrations rule approaches its end. With the completion of the Pacific road, now only a question of a few hours, will commence the downfall of the Mormon dynasty. We never had faith in attempts to suppress polygamy by legislation, and in fact no efforts seem to have been made to enforce the Federal laws on the subject, but the transforming of Utah from a secluded position to the highway of the world will place an important place on the great highway of the world's commerce, will induce the decay of the institution by the silent operation of natural causes. Polygamy loves darkness rather than light. It cannot exist as a recognized institution amid the busy throng of a changing population. Commerce, immigration and social intercourse will suppress it without the interposition of a soldier or a police officer.

In the opinion of the Washington *Chronicle*, "the completion of the Pacific Railroad will at once increase the value and facilitate the transportation of the mails." It probably is well enough to look at the subject. The strong desire to secure liberties urged against transferring to the Government of the control of the mails, has been a sentimental one—a reason which, in the fact inductive of a change—good or bad, that is growing less constantly. The preponderance of representation, consequently of power in the Government, has already gone to the West, and the West is as practical as it is new. It is also ambitious and growing, regardless of precedents and considerations which have been regarded as binding. But there are real reasons, which the paper referred to remarks, that may be urged for removal, and it is these that cause the "danger."

Minister Thornton and the British Legation at Washington are reported as quite hopeful in regard to the opinion that they have "a cracked" way of dealing in respect to treaties, more especially the Alabama treaty. In regard to the latter they say: "We gave you all you asked; we conceded all that Mr. Adams ever claimed; we finally signed a treaty entirely satisfactory to your Mr. Johnson and your Mr. Seward, your Secretary of State from the beginning of the war, and your Minister to whom the Senators all agreed, we do that, and then you turn round and kick the treaty out of doors. Pray tell me what are we to do?" These Englishmen have yet to learn that with the new administration came new ideas, and that it is in with the new administration they must deal.

The renomination of Governor Hayes, by the Republicans of Ohio, is generally conceded, and there is no opposition to the nomination of Lieutenant Governor Lee. The Democrats are sorely divided on the question as to whom they will run. Vallandigham wants General Tom. Ewing, the Cincinnati *Enquirer* General Sam Cary, the greenback people Geo. H. Pendleton, and so on. An Ohio paper thinks that "when a party is ready to rob the cradle by taking that infantile Democrat Sam Cary, of the grave by taking one of the Ewing family, it is so far gone as to be an object of commiseration."

Thus time the rumor makers place Mr. Sumner in the State Department and Mr. Stanton in the Treasury. Those gentlemen are about as likely to go into the positions named as Gen. Grant is to resign. Not that Mr. Fish is peculiarly the man to be Secretary of State, but because Mr. Sumner will reach the position only by the President calling him to it—a circumstance that sufficiently settles the probabilities in the case. As to Mr. Stanton, all the world knows that nothing could induce him to take the Treasury—and besides he is so poorly in health that any serious business is out of the question with him.

The Spanish Cortes on Thursday, adopted the article of the National Constitution guaranteeing liberty of worship, by a vote of 164 to 49—the minority vote representing the strength of the clerical party of the interior. Under this article the Catholic church is to constitute the State church, but the free exercise of all other forms of faith, both by Spaniards and resident foreigners, is permitted and guaranteed. This is a great stride for Spain.

Massachusetts has appointed an agent to dispose of $4,000,000 State bonds in England. The credit of that State is first-rate, she paying interest at all times in specie. What effect the present ill-feeling between England and the United States will have on Massachusetts securities in London cannot be foreseen exactly, but it is not believed that this will exert much influence.

The deposits of fifteen thousand colored persons in the South, with the National Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company amount at this time to $1,150,422, or a fraction over seventy-six dollars for each depositor. A Southern correspondent of the New York *Commercial Advertiser* is of the opinion that were the freedmen to deposit the gold, silver and currency they have hoarded away, the aggregate would reach not less than $20,000,000. This is a very loose estimate, but take the two statements together and it is strong testimony that the negroes are resuming their old habits of industry. In fact, we now very seldom hear complaints from the South as to their indolence, when it will be recollected immediately on the close of the war such complaints formed the burthen of the Southern press. The planters seem satisfied with the negroes, and the latter are laying up money. What better evidence of returning peace and prosperity need any one want?

A few Republican journals have undertaken to criticise President Grant's appointments and hold him responsible for some undoubted mistakes, for which he should not be held accountable. It is undoubtedly true that blunders have been made, but it is due to truth to say that generally they have proceeded from influence exerted by politicians who conspired to overrule the President and render it practically impossible for him to have his own way. Senators and Representatives have insisted on appointments which should not have been made, and he is held responsible for everything done pursuant to their judgment and will solely, and it is on their account that the following remarks by the *St. Louis Democrat* are quite to the point:

"Up to this time, we are sorry to say, we have not been favorably impressed with the President and the Republican leaders in Congress, and to determine which of the two is responsible for the blunders that have been committed, we should say, unhesitatingly, the President. Mr. Grant has had time enough to form his Cabinet, to fill the offices which years of great service built up, without the aid of Congress. He has had time enough to see that Congress was trying hard to control him—and Congress controlled by corrupt rings, and we have seen the corrupt rings at work, and we have seen the Senate and House controlled by corrupt rings, and we have seen the corrupt rings control the appointments, and we have seen the corrupt rings wards from Grant. It does not seem to us that there is any excuse for Grant. He has had time enough, and he cannot see in what other power, nor people can he look to trust their interests."

At the four months session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which terminated recently, only seventy-one general laws were passed, and they have been recently printed in anedition of pamphlet laws and cover just ninety-seven pages. The special laws will not get out until next summer and we can only guess at their number and volume by the issues of former years. We are assured, however, that more special laws were made by the last Legislature than ever before. In 1868, the volume of session laws, general and special, comprised 1,555 pages, of which 96 were general, and 1,459 taken up by special laws. This year 1,439 special laws alone will possibly make a volume of *fifteen hundred pages*. Think of the taxpayers, and groans in the flesh and pocket as you probably do in the spirit.

The canvass for the United States Marshalship of Eastern Pennsylvania, made vacant by the death of General Ely, was becoming quite animated, when the President put an end to it by appointing General Edgar M. Gregory, whose first friend is the Hon. Leonard Myers. His principal competitor was John A. Hiestand, backed by the Cameron influence, which seems to be having bad luck. Gregory entered the war as Colonel of the 91st Pennsylvania Volunteers, and won his way to the highest honors. He has a warm friend in Governor Curtin.

That all who desire may participate in the decoration ceremonies, a wish is expressed by many that they may take place on Saturday the 29th, instead of on the Sunday following, as has been proposed by some, and which would be the anniversary of the battle of Shiloh. Saturday is a holiday of a large part of the community in regard to the Sabbath day, there are many reasons in favor of Saturday, as the day in which the largest number could participate. We believe we express the wish of very many in proposing Saturday the 29th for decorating the graves of our fallen heroes.

The policy of our government in regard to the shipment of arms to foreign ports, is not to interfere, provided the *apparent* destination is not to Cuba. This will be a very convenient loop-hole for the Cuban patriots. In effect, vessels cleared for Nassau, Jamaica or Mexico, will be allowed to leave, no matter how much war material they may have aboard, unwilling to agree to a contingent, have a strong point on which to take the proposed proceedings up to the United States Supreme Court, and some time must elapse before the question is settled.

Hon. Arnold Fleiner, whose death at Franklin, Venango county, on the 28th of April, was announced in the Commercial, was born in that portion of Pennsylvania, in 1797. When very young, he was elected Sheriff of Venango county, and entered upon his duties a few months after reaching the age of twenty-one years. In 1826, he was appointed Prothonotary and Clerk of the County Courts, by Gov. Wolfe, and served in that position for six years. In 1836 he was elected to Congress from the Venango district, and served one term of two years. In 1838 he was appointed by the President and the Republican leaders in Congress, and to determine which of the two parties in the State was entitled to the full delegation from Pennsylvania, and subsequently from 1841 to 1845. He was appointed Marshal of the Western District of Pennsylvania, by President Van Buren, and served four years. He was elected Treasurer, and once as Canal Commissioner. Mr. Plumer filled those positions to the satisfaction of the people, and was universally esteemed for his excellent private worth and the orientious performance of his duties, both in public and private life. Early in life he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and continued a consistent and active member thirty-five had to be removed on account of insanity. This is nearly *three-fourths* of one per cent.

Statistics from the Charlestown prison are also collected to show the relative mortality under the two systems, because the inspectors declare that the Massachusetts institution is by far the best example in ability of management, and of good discipline among the "congregate" prisoners of this country. During the last fifteen years the annual population of the Charlestown Penitentiary foots up an aggregate of 3,236 prisoners, of whom 39 died. This is almosteight hundredths of one per cent. During the same period the aggregate of the annual population of the Eastern Penitentiary was 8,909 prisoners, of whom 91 died. This is almost one-eighth of one per cent. and is more than one-half per cent. Those figures show a minute fraction in favor of the Charlestown Penitentiary, but so minute as to be almost inappreciable. Were it not, the Inspectors think, that the Eastern Penitentiary is a school for crime, and that convicts than the Charlestown jail, a large proportion of whom are in a low state of health when admitted, the figures would be largely in favor of the Philadelphia institution, instead of being nearly level as they are. Of the 91 deaths in fifteen years, 28 were negroes.

Irredeemable Ground Rents.

Irredeemable ground rents in Pennsylvania can now be extinguished by pursuing the course prescribed by the act of Assembly approved April 15, 1869. The owner of the land on which the rent has been charged applies by petition to the Court of Common Pleas, and a citation is issued to the owner of the rent, to be served personally or by advertisement. If the owner of the land and the owner of the rent cannot agree on the price to be paid, a jury of twelve freeholders is summoned to assess the damages arising from a compulsory extinguishment of the ground rent. The damages cannot be estimated at less than twenty years' rent. On confirmation of the inquest and the payment of the damages and the cost of the proceedings, the Court enters judgment that the rent shall be taken as extinguished. The Court must also decree a distribution of the damages among the owners of the ground rent, and must direct the investment of the proceeds in cases of trust estates. It may not be improper to mention that the law now in force allows a party in removing the restrictions on borrowing money on real estate, subject to irredeemable ground rents, there is great doubt whether the act of Assembly is constitutional. Section 8 of Article X of the United States Constitution provides that no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts. At all events, the owners of irredeemable ground rents, unwilling to agree to its extinguishment, have a strong point on which to take the proposed proceedings up to the United States Supreme Court, and some time must elapse before the question is settled.

Hon. Arnold Fleiner, whose death at Franklin, Venango county, on the 28th of April, was announced in the Commercial, was born in that portion of Pennsylvania, in 1797. When very young, he was elected Sheriff of Venango county, and entered upon his duties a few months after reaching the age of twenty-one years. In 1826, he was appointed Prothonotary and Clerk of the County Courts, by Gov. Wolfe, and served in that position for six years. In 1836 he was elected to Congress from the Venango district, and served one term of two years. In 1838 he was appointed by the President and the Republican leaders in Congress, and to determine which of the two parties in the State was entitled to the full delegation from Pennsylvania, and subsequently from 1841 to 1845. He was appointed Marshal of the Western District of Pennsylvania, by President Van Buren, and served four years. He was elected Treasurer, and once as Canal Commissioner. Mr. Plumer filled those positions to the satisfaction of the people, and was universally esteemed for his excellent private worth and the orientious performance of his duties, both in public and private life. Early in life he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and continued a consistent and active member thirty-five had to be removed on account of insanity. This is nearly *three-fourths* of one per cent.

Statistics from the Charlestown prison are also collected to show the relative mortality under the two systems, because the inspectors declare that the Massachusetts institution is by far the best example in ability of management, and of good discipline among the "congregate" prisoners of this country. During the last fifteen years the annual population of the Charlestown Penitentiary foots up an aggregate of 3,236 prisoners, of whom 39 died. This is almosteight hundredths of one per cent. During the same period the aggregate of the annual population of the Eastern Penitentiary was 8,909 prisoners, of whom 91 died. This is almost one-eighth of one per cent. and is more than one-half per cent. Those figures show a minute fraction in favor of the Charlestown Penitentiary, but so minute as to be almost inappreciable. Were it not, the Inspectors think, that the Eastern Penitentiary is a school for crime, and that convicts than the Charlestown jail, a large proportion of whom are in a low state of health when admitted, the figures would be largely in favor of the Philadelphia institution, instead of being nearly level as they are. Of the 91 deaths in fifteen years, 28 were negroes.

OBITUARY

Sudden Death of Col. Thomas McCullough.

Colonel Thomas McCullough, formerly a prominent citizen of Clarion county, and for many years engaged in the iron business in that section, more recently, however, a resident of this city, died very suddenly on Monday, the 3d inst., while on a visit to his early home in Huntingdon county. Disease of the heart had rapidly developed itself of late, and he had retired from active business with a view to that quiet so necessary to his condition. After attending church on Sunday evening of the 2d instant, he was on his return suddenly stricken down and expired without a struggle.

Col. McCullough was prominently known throughout the western part of the State, and took an active part in the management of the Allegheny Valley Railroad from its commencement to its completion. He left quite a handsome estate which falls to several brothers,—he never having been married.

The Pennsylvania Penitentiary System.

The inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia have submitted a report on the workings of that institution, in which a great deal of space is devoted to the subject of the Pennsylvania system of prison discipline by separate or solitary confinement. This system hardly deserves the name of "State," for it has been practiced in the Philadelphia Penitentiary and only remains in force in the Philadelphia prison.

The Philadelphia Directors throw the influence of their testimony against the separate system, and consider at length the two objections raised against the separate system, viz: that it is damaging to the bodily health of the prisoner, and that it excites or produces insanity.

As to the tendency to insanity, the Inspectors declare that in the forty years since the opening of the Eastern Penitentiary five thousand six hundred and forty-two persons have been imprisoned there, and out of that large number but six prisoners had to be removed on account of insanity. This is just *one-tenth* of one per cent. During the same period four thousand seven hundred and twenty-three persons were committed to the Charlestown (Mass.) Penitentiary, and out of that number thirty-five had to be removed on account of insanity. This is nearly *three-fourths* of one per cent.

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Senator Sprague was serenaded at Philadelphia last night, and in reply to a written speech from the balcony of the Continental. He talked in a mysterious way of something grand he proposed to do, which he rendered in these words:

"The idea of consolidating and so operating the accumulated debt, wealth, capital and currency of the Government as to antagonize, check and regulate the power and despotism of private and associate capital, a vitiated partisan press and the Catiline dictation."

This would not be a small task for a larger man, intellectually and physically, than Senator Sprague. We trust he will not break down under it. At any rate, he seemed egotistically confident, for he declared: "From all quarters the acknowledgement comes up that Sprague has uttered some unquestioned, wholesome truths, and I am constantly congratulated for brave words, bravely spoken." All of which was a very good thing for Sprague to say about Sprague